

ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1947.

COUNCILLORS.

Chairman	...	...	Councillor LEWIS JAMES, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	...	...	Councillor J. HOLLEY.
Councillor D. T. Bigham			Councillor D. Belcher
" G. Yearsley			" W. Cross
" Mrs. M. A. Matthews			" T. J. Jenkins
" D. C. Evans			" S. Holloway†
" F. Edwards			" G. Moses
" R. Morris			" H. Reed
" E. Strongman			" T. M. Edwards
" T. Dart			" A. Jones
" I. Jarrett*			

*Elected County Councillor September, 1947.

†Elected September, 1947.

OFFICERS.

Clerk and Accountant	...	...	...	...	Leon King
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	J. Dunlop
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	I Jenkins

Engineer and Surveyor	...	...	...	Malcolm T. Benjamin
Architect	...	...	...	Edmund G. Jenkins
Valuation Officer	...	...	...	C. Knight
Gas Engineer	...	...	...	T. Wilkinson

THE SURGERY,
ABERCARN, MON.

April, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Abercarn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary administration of your area for the year 1947.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Abercarn Urban District ...	9,543 acres.	
Population—Registrar General's Estimate ...		18,920
Inhabited Houses ...	1945	4,497
	1946	4,545
	1947	4,747
Number of Houses Owned by Council ...		418
Rateable Value ...	1945	£66,129
	1946	£66,383
	1947	£64,813
		£ s. d.
Product of Penny Rate ...	1945	239 6 10
	1946	239 13 11
	1947	236 0 0

VITAL STATISTICS. BIRTHS.

Live Births:—

			1945	1946	1947
Legitimate ...	...	...	336	354	393
Illegitimate ...	...	...	18	15	9
			—	—	—
Total ...			354	369	403
			—	—	—
			1945	1946	1947
Males ...	...	...	179	198	196
Females ...	...	...	175	171	207
			—	—	—
Total ...			354	369	403
			—	—	—

Stillbirths:—

			1945	1946	1947
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of					
the Population ...			0.58	0.68	0.73

DEATHS.

			1945	1946	1947
Males ...	...	...	134	122	139
Females ...	...	...	99	102	78
			—	—	—
Total ...			233	224	217
			—	—	—

Death Rate per 1,000 of the

			1945	1946	1947
Population ...	...	...	12.3	11.7	11.4
					1947
Birth Rate per 1,000—Monmouthshire ...					21.3
Birth Rate per 1,000—England and Wales ...					20.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths under one year:—

				1945	1946	1947
Boys	...	...	...	7	8	13
Girls	...	...	...	8	8	7
				—	—	—
	Total	...		15	16	20
				—	—	—

Causes of Infant deaths at various ages:—

	1	2	3	4	Total	3	6	9	12	Total
Convulsions	...	3	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—
Cardiac Failure	...	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	1
Spina Bifida	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	3	1	—	—	4	1	2	1	5
Deficient Vitality	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	...	10	2	1	—	13	2	2	1	2
										7

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS.

				1945	1946	1947
Bronchitis	...	...	...	15	16	27
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21	18	19
Other Forms	...	...	...	—	3	4
				—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	36	37	50
				—	—	—

CANCER DEATHS.

				1944	1945	1946	1947
Males	...	...	...	11	15	19	17
Females	...	...	...	7	14	6	11
				—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	18	29	25	28
				—	—	—	—

Infectious Disease.

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Small Pox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Continued Fever.

There were no deaths from Notifiable Diseases during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality in 1947.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	—	—	3	2	—	—	2	—
5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
20	5	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	3	2	—	2	1	1	—	1
35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
45	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	14	4	6	1	4	2	2

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Total Cases on Register 31/12/46 ...	62	51	18	27	158
New Cases—1947 ...	16	14	4	6	40
Deaths ...	1	4	2	2	9
Recovered ...	5	9	4	4	22
Removed from District ...	—	1	—	—	1
Total Cases on Register 31/12/47 ...	71	50	16	26	163

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES.

Medical Officer of Health: J. Dunlop, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.).

Sanitary Inspector: I. H. Jenkins, M.R.S.I.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services are maintained by the County Council at Abercarn, Newbridge and Crumlin. The Local Nursing Association maintains two District Nurses.

Isolation Hospitals.

The principal Isolation Hospital, which takes infectious cases, is situated at Aberbargoed in the area of the Bedwellty Urban District Council. A patient suffering from Meningitis was the only case admitted to the Hospital during the year from the Abercarn Area.

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Diseases	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	3	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	15
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	1	3	—	3	2	2	7	2	22
Measles	—	3	62	97	59	66	—	—	—	—	—	—	287
Tuberculosis	2	1	—	2	—	2	5	8	15	3	2	—	40
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Whooping Cough	2	1	3	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Chicken Pox	—	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
	5	6	68	107	67	80	7	11	17	5	9	4	386

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING PAST FOUR YEARS.

	1944	1945	1946	1947
Scarlet Fever ...	20	17	25	15
Diphtheria ...	—	9	3	—
Pneumonia ...	23	35	23	22
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	25	214	16	287
Tuberculosis ...	46	32	34	40
Erysipelas ...	1	1	2	2
Whooping Cough ...	7	—	11	13
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	72	7
Total ...	122	308	186	386

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation during the Year :—

Age at	0	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
31/12/47 ...	171	102	592	248	215	2,618	254	4,200

Estimated

Population	Children under 5.	Children 5-14	Total
Mid Year 1947.	1,630	2,760	4,390

There were no cases of Diphtheria reported during the past year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality in 1947.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	—	—	3	2	—	—	2	—
5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
20	5	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	3	2	—	2	1	1	—	1
35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
45	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	14	4	6	1	4	2	2

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
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Hospitals.

There are no Isolation hospitals in the Council's area but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

Services. This free service has been brought to the notice of parents under five years can obtain treatment at the Infant and Child Welfare

Children can receive free treatment at the local Surgeries; children by Posters, Film and Newspaper advertisement.

There are two Public Vaccinators in the District.

Ambulance Service.

Free ambulance service has been provided by the Council for the conveyance of residents to the various hospitals. The service is free within a radius of 25 miles. The extensive use which is being made of the service justifies its provision.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it will become the duty of the County Council to administer the Ambulance Services.

Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Samples of Milk and Water are submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Ebbw and the Monmouthshire Canal runs through the Council's District. Subsidence is causing serious difficulties between Abercarn and Crumlin, the towing path has been raised by several feet during the year. The River and Canal are being used by many people as a depository for all kinds of refuse and dead animals.

Efforts are being made to discover the persons responsible. The nuisance is removed by the Local Authority as soon as possible after it is discovered.

Water Supplies.

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from the Grwyne-tawr Reservoir situated in the Breconshire Mountains. Subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources; the water is of good quality and except for periods of drought the supply is adequate.

The water is sampled by the Board and Bacteriological Examinations are made. When found necessary, the supplies are chlorinated by the Board's officials.

The number of houses with a piped water supply ... 4,631

The number of houses supplied from wells and

springs 116



Sewers and Drains.

The Council are constituent members of the Western Valleys Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary Sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer. There are approximately 120 houses not connected to the Sewer, these are chiefly isolated houses on the mountain tops which are too far from any of the present Sewers to be connected.

Schemes for the sewerage of 54 houses at the Graig, Cwmcarn, Twyn Colloge, Penmar, The Pant and Pentrepoed have been prepared and it is hoped that these will be completed in the near future.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is now carried out by direct labour. The Council has three modern vehicles and the larger part of the District is covered three times weekly.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council have been forced to make use of temporary sites for the disposal of refuse and the filling of the Kay Field, Crumlin, and several quarries assisted this work. The Pantyresk site will soon be available, where there is room for many years tipping. Controlled tipping is to be carried out on the new site as soon as a level can be made.

Rainfall.

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.

Height above sea level ... 529.9 feet.

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month		Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 hours in inches	Date	No. of days with less than 0.1 in.
January	...	6.49	.92	8th	22
February	...	3.83	.70	8th	12
March	...	10.84	1.30	4th	22
April	...	5.93	1.60	5th	15
May	...	3.90	.79	1st	16
June	...	3.06	.69	14th	13
July	...	2.73	.63	7th	14
August	...	1.11	.82	3rd	3
September	...	2.66	.61	16th	12
October	...	1.79	.62	23rd	9
November	...	5.65	1.10	21st	18
December	...	4.68	1.06	4th	13
Total		52.67	10.84	5/4/47	169

Housing Conditions.

The Housing circumstances continue to be affected by the acute shortage of houses. Overcrowding occurs chiefly because of sub-letting to two or three families. In only very few instances are cases of overcrowding of single families in one house.

The Council have erected 230 houses since the end of the War, comprising 50 Arcon Bungalows, 50 B.I.S.F. Houses, 100 Aluminium Bungalows and 30 Traditional Houses. Also preparations are being made for the erection of another large number at Persondy.

The Council are seeking sites in several parts of the District for the building of more houses, and it is hoped that the time will soon arrive when the bulk of the people will have a house for each family.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Housing.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	...	76
Re-inspected	... ..	44
Warning Notices served	... ..	76
Remedied without Notice	... ..	52
Statutory Notices served	... ..	24
Statutory Notices complied with	... ..	22
Statutory Notices not complied with	... ..	2
Number of House in Area	... ..	4,677
Number of Houses Owned by Council	...	622
Number of New Houses erected during 1947	...	Nil
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by Owner	... ..	23
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by Council	... ..	14

The tabulated figures show the number of houses dealt with:—

Number of Dwelling-houses erected during the year:—			
By the Council	...	...	50 Prefabricated Bungalows
"	"	"	100 Aluminium Bungalows.
"	"	"	30 Traditional Brick Houses.
"	"	"	50 B.I.S.F. Houses.

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry :—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	76
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	110
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in respects reasonably fit for habitation ...	22

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices ... 18

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	40
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners ...	24
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil
Number of houses licensed for Evacuees ...	Nil
Number of houses under Circular 2845 ...	16

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners ...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 187

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 389

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 1,608

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 61

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 150

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 526

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

Housing Conditions.

The housing position at the beginning of 1947 was in a very serious state of overcrowding. It has become so prevalent in the District that it is impossible to keep any check upon it.

INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Milk Supply.

Number of Cowsheds on Register ... 44

Number of Milk Producers on Register ... 70

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk ... 36

Cowsheds are inspected every three months for fitness and cleanliness; most of the cowsheds have been made reasonably fit although in the case of very old buildings it has been difficult owing to lack of suitable materials. The great fault in many of the Hill Farms is the lack of an adequate water supply, and in these cases water has to be carried from the lower houses in churns.

Sewers and Drains.

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Number of New Houses erected during 1947	...	Nil
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Owner	23
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by		
Council	14

The tabulated figures show the number of houses dealt with:—

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By the Council	...	50 Prefabricated Bungalows
"	"	100 Aluminium Bungalows.
"	"	30 Traditional Brick Houses.
"	"	50 B.I.S.F. Houses.

Regular sampling is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and the Sanitary Inspector takes periodical samples for Bacteriological examination. The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County takes samples for testing the fat content and purity of the milk.

Ice Cream.

New Regulations came into force controlling the manufacture of Ice Cream, and persons who manufacture the article must provide hygienic premises, proper sterilisation and cooling equipment for the hot mix process before they can be registered.

The compulsory provision of cooling equipment has been postponed for one year owing to the shortages in this machine. For the cold mix previously sterilised materials are used. Premises are inspected monthly.

All makers of Ice Cream are now compulsorily registered by the Local Authority and they must specify in their application whether they manufacture Hot or Cold Mix.

Fish-Fryers.

These shops are visited regularly and the cleanliness and preparation of the food is carefully watched. There is a general improvement in the new type of Range which absorbs the offensive smell associated with this Trade.

Meat.

Both fresh killed and chilled meat is distributed from the Brynmawr Slaughterhouse where it is inspected before distribution. An inspection is made in the shops after it arrives. In only a few cases has it been necessary to condemn any meat, and then only to decomposition having set in. The provision of Refrigerators in Butcher's Shops have made a great improvement in the condition of the meat and the hygiene of the Butcher's Shops.

Other Foods.

A large quantity of tinned and other foods have been inspected and in the case of meat, bacon, butter and condensed milk, the goods are sent to the various Pools for salvage or reconditioning. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year :—

38 lbs. Bacon.	45 lbs. Cheese.
238 lbs. Cereals.	19 tins Sardines.
87 tins Condensed Milk.	53 lbs. Beef.
57 tins Baked Beans.	84 lbs. Mutton.
18 tins Brisket Beef.	158 lbs. Butter.
32 tins Pilchards.	18 lbs. Margarine.
14 tins Salmon.	21 lbs. Syrup.
38 tins Jam.	30 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat.

Bakehouses.

These premises are inspected regularly for cleanliness and the observation of the Regulations by the Occupiers.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The work of destroying rats and mice was carried out until the end of September by a full-time Operative. From the 1st October, the Council reverted to their previous policy of employing a part-time Operative. The person employed is a skilled man of much experience in the work and was previously employed for many years by the Council when he gave entire satisfaction.

The Sewers, Canal and River Banks, Refuse Tips and all Council property are attended to. It has been found that systematic sewer baiting has had a marked effect upon the number of surface infestations.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of Factories ... ..				...	...	9	
Number of Workshops ... ..				...	...	21	.
				Number of Defects.			
						Referred	No. of
						to H.M.	Prose-
Particulars				Found	Remedied	Inspector	cutions
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	1	1	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :							
Insufficient	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	1	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	...	...	1	1	—	—	—
Total				3	3	1	—

Shops Acts.

All shops are still closing at the times agreed upon during the War. The Regulations regarding the employment of young persons are complied with.

Cinemas.

There are four Cinemas in the Area. The Sanitary arrangements in these premises are inspected and they are kept clean and in a sanitary condition. Disinfectant is used by all.

J. DUNLOP, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.),
Medical Officer of Health.

IVOR JENKINS, M.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.



